THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The use of Endosulfan is not banned in India and therefore, it is freely available.

(c) and (d) Since there is no ban on use of Endosulfan, therefore, it is freely marketed in India under different brand names.

(e) Reviewing the use of pesticides is a continuous process. The Government had constituted an Export Committee in 1989 to review the use of 14 pesticides including Endosulfan. After review it was decided to continue its use.

Sealing of Assam Border

590. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to seal the international border adjoining Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the progress made so far in erection of the barbed wire fencing on the border of Assam facing Bangladesh; and

(e) the time by which the barbed wire fencing is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) A project to construct border roads and fence along sensitive stretches of Indo-Bangladesh border has been taken up with a view to preventing infiltration of foreign nationals and to curb trans-border crimes. This includes construction of 192 kms. of roads and 158 kms. of fence in the Indo-Bangladesh border adjoining Assam.

2. 116.59 kms. of border roads and 125.54 kms. of fence has been constructed upto 31.12.96. The work is likely to be completed by the end of 1998.

Depletion of Mandarin Oranges

591. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that Mandarin Oranges in Sikkim and Darjiling hills are under depletion owing to a disease;

(b) whether the ICAR Unit located in Sikkim has done any research on this disease;

(c) whether the Government have received any request for rejuvenation of depleted orange orchards of Sikkim;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has suggested a package of practices for rejuvenating declined mandar in orchards to minimise the incidence.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, Government of India is providing assistance for rejuvenation of old orchards which includes citrus under the scheme on integrated development of temperate, tropical and arid zone fruits. So far, Rs. 44.17 lakh has been released during VIIIth Plan to Sikkim under the Scheme.

Floriculture Centre in Andhra Pradesh

592. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to sanction a model floriculture centre at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction;

(c) the number of sanctions issued for foreign collaboration for floriculture during 1996-97; and

(d) the time by which model floriculture centre is likely to be sanctioned in Hyderabad ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) The Government of India has sanctioned a model floriculture centre for Andhra Pradesh in March,1996 and also released Rs. 40 lakhs out of a total cost of Rs. 52.50 lakhs for the centre. Location of the centre in the state is to be decided by the State Government.

(c) Eighteen (18) sanctions for foreign collaborations for floriculture have been issued during the period from 1st April, 1996 to 15th February 1997.

Illegal Funds from Foreign Countries

593. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :